

We claim:

1 1. An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:
2 data objects, each data object defining a class of object with at least one attribute, said
3 attribute being stored in the database with an indication of the effective time of the attribute, any
4 change in attribute also being stored in the data object along with an indication of the time of effect
5 of the change in the attribute; and

6 methods which the class can carry out, said methods having an argument which is
7 effective time, said method being stored in the database with an indication of the effective time of
8 the method, any change in said method also being stored in the data object along with an indication
9 of the time of effect of the change in the method, execution of said method with a particular time
10 argument utilizing the attributes of the effected data objects and the particular method in effect for
11 the particular time specified.

1 2. An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:
2 data objects, each data object defining a class of object with at least one attribute, said
3 attribute being stored in the database with an indication of the effective time of the attribute, any
4 change in attribute also being stored in the data object along with an indication of the time of effect
5 of the change in the attribute; and

6 methods which the class can carry out, said methods having an argument which is
7 effective time, execution of said method with a particular time argument utilizing the attributes of
8 the effected data objects in effect for the particular time specified.

1 3. An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:
2 data objects, each data object defining a class of object with at least one attribute, said

3 attribute being stored in the database, any change in attribute also being stored in the data object ;
4 and

5 methods which the class can carry out, said methods having an argument which is
6 effective time, said method being stored in the database with an indication of the effective time of
7 the method, any change in said method also being stored in the data object along with an indication
8 of the time of effect of the change in the method, execution of said method with a particular time
9 argument utilizing the particular method in effect for the particular time specified.

1 4. An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:

2 data objects, each data object defining a class of object with attributes, at least one
3 attribute of one data object being stored in the database with an indication of the context of the
4 attribute, any change in attribute also being stored in the data object along with an indication of the
5 context of the change in the attribute; and

6 methods which the class can carry out, at least one of said methods having an
7 argument which is an indication of context, said method being stored in the database with an
8 indication of the context of the method, any difference in said method also being stored in the data
9 object along with an indication of the context of the difference in the method, a method executed
10 with a particular context argument utilizing the attributes of the effected data objects and the method
11 in effect for the particular context.

1 5. An object-oriented temporal context programming system as claimed in claim
2 wherein the context is a version of an application program, so that by identifying a particular
3 context a different version of the application program runs and gives the user a different vantage
4 point from which to experience the program.

1 6. An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:
2 data objects, each data object defining a class of object with attributes, at least one
3 attribute of one data object being stored in the database with an indication of the context of the
4 attribute, any change in attribute also being stored in the data object along with an indication of the
5 context of the change in the attribute; and

6 methods which the class can carry out, at least one of said methods having an
7 argument which an indication of context, a method executed with a particular context argument
8 utilizing the attributes of the effected data objects in effect for the particular context.

1 7. An object-oriented temporal context programming system comprising:
2 data objects each defining a class of object with attributes; and
3 methods which the class can carry out, at least one of said methods having an
4 argument which is an indication of context, said method being stored in the database with an
5 indication of the context of the method, any difference in said method also being stored in the data
6 object along with an indication of the context of the difference in the method, a method executed
7 with a particular context argument utilizing the method in effect for the particular context.